REMARKS

With this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to remove references to Claims 1, 4 and 7. The references to those claims have been replaced with the text of the independent method, system and cartridge claims of the instant application. As the amendment is fully supported by specification at page 3, lines 21-25, and by the claims as originally filed, it does not constitute new matter. Entry thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

No fees are believed due in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge all required fees, fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 and all required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment, to Pennie & Edmonds U.S. Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 8, 2002

42,983

Rahul Pathak (Reg. No.)

For: Jennifer Gordon, (Reg. No. 30,753)
PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP
1155 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-2711
(212) 790-9090

Enclosure (Exhibit A)

Exhibit A
Marked-Up Copy of Amended Paragraph

Amended paragraph at page 3, line 21, beginning "According to a first aspect of the invention":

According to a first aspect of the invention the above aim is achieved with a method [according to claim 1, with a system according to claim 4, and with a cartridge according to claim 7.] for processing a nucleic acid sample contained in a liquid, said method comprising introducing said liquid into a chamber of a cartridge which contains a chip shaped carrier, an active surface of which carries an array of oligonucleotides, said chamber having a narrow interior and including a channel comprised between two inner surfaces of said chamber, positioning said cartridge in a cartridge holder, said positioning being effected before or after introduction of said liquid into said chamber, and oscillating said cartridge holder and thereby said cartridge about an axis of rotation which is substantially perpendicular to a vertical plane, thereby moving said cartridge back and forth between a first angular position and a second angular position which lie on opposite sides of an intermediate angular position at which said active surface of said chip shaped carrier is substantially at a lowest part of its motion path caused by said oscillating of said cartridge, in order to cause relative motion of the liquid contained in said channel with respect to said active surface of said chip shaped carrier. According to the first aspect of the invention, the above aim is also achieved with a system for processing a nucleic acid sample contained in a liquid, said system comprising (a) a cartridge which comprises a chip shaped carrier having an active surface which carries an array of oligonucleotides, said active surface facing an inner surface of a part of said cartridge and a chamber having a narrow interior and including a channel, a portion of said channel lying between said active surface and said inner surface, (b) a cartridge holder which is adapted to hold said cartridge, and (c) means for oscillating said cartridge holder and thereby said cartridge about an axis of rotation which is substantially perpendicular to a vertical plane and thereby moving said cartridge back and forth between a first angular position and a second angular position which lie on opposite sides of an intermediate angular position at which said active surface of said chip shaped carrier is substantially at the lowest part of its motion path caused by said oscillating of the cartridge in order to cause relative motion of the liquid contained in said channel with respect to said active surface of said chip shaped carrier. According to the first aspect of the invention, the above aim is also achieved with a

cartridge for processing a nucleic acid sample contained in a liquid, said cartridge comprising a chip shaped carrier having an active surface which carries an array of oligonucleotides, said active surface facing an inner surface of a part of said cartridge, and a chamber having a narrow interior and including a channel, a portion of said channel lying between said active surface and said inner surface. Features of preferred embodiments are [defined by the dependent claims] described herein.